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Claim 4 (Amended):

A medium according to claim 1, wherein the sponge material is a naturally-occurring polymer.

A3
Claim 6 (Amended):

A medium according to claim 1, wherein the functional groups bind DNA.

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Claim 8 (Amended):

A medium according to claim 1, wherein the particles are 0.5 to 10 mm in size.

Claim 9 (Amended):

A medium according to claim 1, capable of retaining species having a molecular weight of at least one million Daltons.

Claim 10 (Amended):

A medium according to claim 1, wherein the sponge material is cross-linked.

Claim 11 (Amended):

A method for purifying DNA in an aqueous sample, which comprises passing the sample through a medium according to claim 1.

Please add the following new claims 12-20:

12. A medium according to claim 1, wherein the particles are of heterogeneous particle size and are obtained by chopping a larger block of the cellulosic sponge material.

13. A medium according to claim 8, wherein the particles are of heterogeneous particle size and are obtained by chopping a larger block of the cellulosic sponge material.

14. A medium according to claim 2, wherein the sponge material is free of fibrous reinforcement and comprises particles of heterogeneous particle size obtained by chopping a larger block of the cellulosic sponge material.

15. A medium according to claim 14, wherein the particles are cross-linked.

16. A medium according to claim 15, wherein the particles are 0.5 to 10 mm in size.

17. A medium according to claim 16 having a water retention value of greater than 6 ml/g.

18. A medium according to claim 3, wherein said sponge material comprises particles of cellulosic sponge material carrying functional groups and wherein said particles are cross linked.

19. A medium according to claim 18, wherein said particles are of heterogeneous size and are obtained by chopping a larger block of cellulosic sponge material.

20. A medium according to claim 19, wherein said particles are 0.5 to 10mm in size.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Abstract of the Disclosure
Marked-Up Version of Amended Claims